

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data
Los Cerritos Channel**

Summary of Proposed Action

New Proposed Listings

- “Not Supporting” (Impaired) for sediment toxicity due to exceedances in toxicity tests.
- “Not Supporting” (Impaired) for chordane in sediments due to exceedances of Effects Range-Median (ERM) and/or Probable Effects Level (PEL).

These actions all affect the aquatic life beneficial uses.

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Los Cerritos Channel	Pollutants/Stressors	See Above
Hydrologic Unit		Source(s)	unknown
Total Waterbody Size	16	TMDL Priority	Low
Size Affected		TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)	2012
Extent of Impairment		TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)	2014

Watershed Characteristics

The Los Cerritos Channel is concrete-lined above the tidal prism and drains a relatively small area of east Long Beach, albeit a densely urbanized one. The channel's tidal prism starts at Anaheim Road and connects with Alamitos Bay through the Marine Stadium; the wetlands connects to the Channel a short distance from the lower end of the Channel. The wetlands, and portion of the channel near the wetlands, is an overwintering site for a great diversity of birds (up to 50 species) despite its small size. An endangered bird species, the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, may nest there and an area adjacent to the wetlands is a historic least tern colony site. One small marina is located in the channel which is also used by rowing teams and is a popular fishing area.

Alamitos Bay: Alamitos Bay is composed of the Marine Stadium, a recreation facility built in 1932 and used for boating, water skiing, and jet skiing; Long Beach Marina, which contains five smaller basins for recreational craft and a boatyard; a variety of public and private berths; and the Bay proper which includes several small canals, a bathing beach, and several popular clamming areas. A small bathing lagoon, Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach, has a tidal connection with the Bay and a small wildlife pond, Sims Pond, also has a tidal connection. The latter is heavily used by overwintering migratory birds.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained

ERM/PEL

Sediment Toxicity

Beneficial Uses Affected

Aquatic Life

Data Assessment

Sediment chemistry (94): chlordanes

Sediment toxicity (93, 94)

Table 2. Summary of Sediment Data for Los Cerritos Channel

Dates of Sampling	1/14/93 2/16/94
Number of Samples (n)	4 (sediment)
Minimum Data Value	Total chlordanes: nd
Maximum Data Value	Total chlordanes: 10.94 ppb
Median Data Value	
Arithmetic Mean Value	
Standard Deviation	
Number (Percent) above Objective	Chlordanes: 3 (75 %) Sediment toxicity: 3 (75 %)

This table may summarize additional data not relevant to this factsheet that supports a continued listing for this waterbody.

Potential Sources

Unknown

References

Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program database